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In re Application of LUCOVSKY et al.
Serial No. 10/021,316

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 4-6, 8-33, and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,983,234 to Tietjen et al. ("Tietjen"). Additionally, the Office action rejected claims 7 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tietjen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,416 to Anand et al. ("Anand"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

By present amendment, claims 1, 14, 16, 29, 30, and 35 have been amended. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on December 22, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Prior to discussing reasons why applicants believe that the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present invention is presented.

The present invention is directed to a system and method for using a contacts service that allows for central (e.g., over the internet) access to specific data typically stored on a server computer. See generally FIG. 4 and pages 16-17 of the specification. The data may be stored in the form of a content document (for

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example, content document 422) and the information that designates access to the data may be stored in the form of a logical contacts document (for example, roleList document 424). These logical documents may be part of a schema (for example, service schema 416) for providing the information about the structure of data stored in the system. Such a system is advantageous for storing contact information and the like so that users may obtain various contacts data, such as, for example, an email address or telephone number from any device capable of connecting to the internet. Since the schema provides the information about the structure of data, any device of any platform or communication protocol may access the data.

One embodiment of the present invention features a system and method for providing a schema for coordinating the access, manipulation, and retrieval of data. The schema may be a function of the class of service. For example, the schema may be directed to data structures typically used in common database platforms that store data about contacts, *i.e.*, a contacts schema. Data typically considered contacts data may include a person's name, phone number, email address, fax number, mobile phone number, *etc.* The contacts schema, which may be typically in the form of a content document, may include contacts data-related fields arranged with defined structures, such as a field for name, a field for phone number, *etc.*

When another computing device wishes to access or retrieve the data, it may first be determined whether the device has permission to access or retrieve the data. As mentioned above, the contacts service may include a logical contacts

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document that may describe a scope of access rights, such as which users have what type of access to which data. For example, a data owner may typically have read/write access to his or her own data, and can provide various types of access to that data to other users based on their IDs, (e.g., read only to some users, read/write to others). Thus, when a user wishes to set the scope as defined in the logical contacts document, the user may send a request to manipulate the data stored in the logical contacts document which controls the scope. In response to the request, at least one set of data in a logical contacts document (data that corresponds to associated identity information) may be manipulated based on the type of request. In this way, each set of data in the logical contacts document corresponds to a related field in the contacts schema and determines the scope of access rights for users according to their identity information. Note that the above description is for example and informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

§102(b) Rejections

Turning to the claims, amended claim 4 recites in a computer network, a method comprising, receiving a request from a device having a service running thereon using a service to service protocol to retrieve contacts data from a data store, the request including associated identity information, reading from the data store to obtain contacts data in response to the request, wherein access to the data store is based on the associated identity information, constructing a contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a defined schema for contacts data, the defined schema operable to be interpreted

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by the service running on the device, and returning the contacts document to the device in response to the request.

The Office action rejected claim 4 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches receiving a request to retrieve contacts data, the request including associated identity information. Fig. 3, step 51, column 8, lines 6-18, Fig. 1, column 5, lines 39 and 55-67 of Tietjen are referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information. Fig. 3, step 53, and column 8, lines 6-19 of Tietjen are referenced. Still further, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for contacts data. Column 6, lines 7-16 and 60-67 of Tietjen are referenced. Finally, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches returning the document in response to the request. Fig. 3, method 50 and step 57, column 7, lines 60-67 and column 9, lines 38-54 of Tietjen are referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Tietjen is directed, generally, to a system and method for viewing and editing of values and attributes that are part of a distributed objects database that allows access rights for multiple users. In particular, the method primarily cited and applied in the Office action with regard to the rejection of claim 4 involves steps 51-57 as detailed in column 8, line 6 through column 9, line 54. This method disclosed in Tietjen begins at step 51 when the distributed directory is first accessed. At step 52, a target object is selected wherein the target object is chosen for manipulation,

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i.e., writing or reading values or attributes. At step 53, said values and attributes of the target object are displayed such that a user may see what values and attributes currently reside in the targeted object. Steps 54 and 55 provide an editing means to the user such that the values and attributes of the target object may be manipulated. After changes are implemented in the target object, changes to the distributed directory are also, in turn, implemented as the target object is never removed from the distributed directory. As Tietjen clearly states, those with ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that the specific operation for modifying the distributed directory will depend on the distributed directory being modified. Thus, Tietjen, is simply directed to a system for arranging objects in a hierarchical manner such that changes to particular objects in the distributed directory are kept track of by the distributed directory.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a system and method for a contacts service that allows for central (e.g., over the internet) access to specific data typically stored on a server computer. More particularly, claim 4 recites receiving a request from a device having a service running thereon using a service to service protocol to retrieve contacts data from a data store, the request including associated identity information. Applicants maintain that the cited portion of Tietjen (step 51 and 52 of Fig. 3) is silent as to the inclusion of identity information as used in this context. Identity information, as used in claim 4 and in the specification, may be an identification of the entity (e.g., the requesting device itself or a user of the requesting device) that is requesting access to the contacts data. Contacts data, as used in claim 4 and in the specification, may be the actual data stored in the

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data store and the subject of the request for data (e.g., given name, last name, email address, etc.,). The Office action has mistakenly interpreted contacts data and identity information to be interchangeable terms which they are clearly not. Thus, despite Tietjen stating that the database may be subject to authentication and login security systems (FIG. 1, object 20), Tietjen simply does not associate any *requests* for data with identity information that identifies the source of the request for data in the first place.

Further, claim 4 recites reading from the data store to obtain contacts data in response to the request, wherein access to the data store may be based on the associated identity information. As discussed above, Tietjen is silent as to identity-based requests. Thus, Tietjen cannot possibly teach reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information.

Still further yet, claim 4 recites constructing a contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a defined schema for contacts data, the defined schema operable to be interpreted by the service running on the device. Tietjen does not teach using the contacts schema in a manner as recited in claim 4. Specifically, claim 4 recites constructing a contacts document having both the requested contacts data and the defined schema that may be used to interpret the requested contacts data.

The method taught by Tietjen does not construct any documents anywhere at any time. Rather, any changes made to anything in the system of Tietjen are done so at the target object itself. That is, as stated in the Office action, "With a secondary replica, clients can read, write, create, and destroy entries in the

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distributed directory by accessing this replica." Column 6, lines 64-65 of Tietjen is referenced. Reading, writing, creating and destroying entries in a database is not the same as constructing a document. Documents are files that may be communicated on a network; entries in a database remain tied to the database and cannot be communicated in a network.

Finally, claim 4 recites returning the document in response to the request. Clearly, since Tietjen does not teach constructing a contacts document including at least part of the requested data and a defined schema as discussed above, Tietjen cannot possibly teach returning the document in response to the request.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 5-6 and 8-13, by similar analysis, are allowable. These claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 4 and consequently include the recitations of independent claim 4. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 4 and, therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 4 noted above, these claims include additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 14 recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for receiving a request from a device having a service running thereon using a service to service protocol to retrieve contacts data from a data store, the request including associated identity information, reading from the data store to obtain contacts data

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in response to the request, wherein access to the data store is based on the associated identity information, constructing a contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a defined schema for contacts data, the defined schema operable to be interpreted by the service running on the device, and returning the contacts document to the device in response to the request.

The Office action rejected claim 14 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches the recitations of claim 14 for the same reasons as were given with regard to the rejection of claim 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 14 is directed to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that embody the method recited in claim 4 and, thus, the previously presented arguments as to why claim 4 is allowable also apply to claim 14. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as to why claim 4 is allowable.

Further, applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, by similar analysis, is also allowable. This claim depends directly from claim 14 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 14. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 14 and, therefore, claim 15 is also allowable over the prior art of record.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 16 recites in a computer network, a method comprising accessing a network using a device, the accessing including providing associated identity information corresponding to the

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device, requesting contacts data stored in a data store from a service accessible via the network using a service to service protocol, the request including the associated identity information, determining if the request is an allowable request based on the associated identity information, and if the request is allowable, returning a contacts document to the device, the contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a schema associated with the service.

The Office action rejected claim 16 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches the recitations of claim 16 for the same reasons as were given with regard to the rejection of claim 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 16 is directed to a method for using a contacts data service that allows for central access to specific data typically stored on a server computer and the return of requested data in the form of a contacts document according to a defined contacts schema. In particular, claim 16 recites returning a contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a defined schema for contacts data, the defined schema operable to be interpreted by the service running on the requesting device. As discussed above, Tietjen does not teach using the contacts schema in a manner as recited in claim 16. Specifically, claim 16 recites returning a contacts document having both the requested contacts data and the defined schema that may be used to interpret the requested contacts data.

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The method taught by Tietjen does not construct or return any documents anywhere at any time. Rather, any changes to anything in the system of Tietjen are done so at the target object itself. That is, as stated in the Office action, "With a secondary replica, clients can read, write, create, and destroy entries in the distributed directory by accessing this replica." Column 6, lines 64-65 of Tietjen is referenced. Entries in a database that may be read, written, created or destroyed are still merely entries in a database and cannot exist without the database. This is fundamentally different from a content document that may be communicated over a network. Thus, Tietjen cannot possibly be construed to teach returning a contacts document to the device, the contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a schema associated with the service. For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 17-28, by similar analysis, are allowable. These claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16 and consequently include the recitations of independent claim 16. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 16 and, therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 16 noted above, these claims include additional patentable elements.

Turning to the next independent claim, amended claim 29 recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for accessing a network using a device, the accessing including providing associated identity

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information corresponding to the device, requesting contacts data stored in a data store from a service accessible via the network using a service to service protocol, the request including the associated identity information, determining if the request is an allowable request based on the associated identity information; and if the request is allowable, returning a contacts document to the device, the contacts document including at least part of the requested contacts data and including a schema associated with the service.

The Office action rejected claim 29 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches the recitations of claim 29 for the same reasons as were given with regard to the rejections of claim 4 and claim 16. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 29 is directed to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that embody the method recited in claim 16 and, thus, the previously presented arguments as to why claim 16 is allowable also apply to claim 29. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is allowable for at least the same reasons as to why claim 16 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 30-33, by similar analysis, are allowable. These claims depend directly from claim 29 and consequently include the recitations of independent claim 29. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 29; therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 29 noted above, these claims include additional patentable elements.

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Turning to the last independent claim, amended claim 35 recites receiving a request from a device having a service running thereon to manipulate contacts data in a logical contacts document that is stored in a data store, the request including associated identity information and in the form of a first content document having a defined schema for contacts data; determining a scope of access rights based on the identity information, the scope determined according to the contacts schema having contacts-related fields arranged into a second access-control content document with defined structures for the fields, determining if the request is within the scope, and if the request is within the scope, manipulating at least one set of data in the logical contacts document, each set of data in the logical contacts document structured to correspond to a field in the first content document.

The Office action rejected claim 35 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches the recitations of claim 35 for the same reasons as were given with regard to the rejection of claims 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 35 is directed to a method for determining and using a scope of access rights to contacts data using a contacts schema. For example, when a device may request that a change be made to contacts data stored in a data store, the device may send a request over a network in the form of a content document (a first content document) that includes a request for contacts data, a schema for contacts data, and identity information. In response to the request, the identity information may be used to identify a second access-control content document that defines a set of access rights for the identity in the information sent with the

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request. Thus, if the request is determined to be an allowable request, then contacts in the data store may be manipulated according to the request and the nature of the request is interpreted using the associated contacts schema that accompanies the request itself.

Clearly, Tietjen does not even begin to teach a first and second content document used in conjunction with a data store to determine a scope of access rights for requesting users. More particularly, Tietjen simply does not teach determining a scope of access rights based on the identity information, the scope determined according to the contacts schema having contacts-related fields arranged into a second access-control content document with defined structures for the fields, determining if the request is within the scope, and if the request is within the scope, manipulating at least one set of data in the logical contacts document, each set of data in the logical contacts document structured to correspond to a field in the first content document as recited in claim 35. Applicants submit that claim 35 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least these reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 36-37, by similar analysis, are allowable. These claims depend directly from claim 35 and consequently include the recitations of independent claim 35. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 35 and, therefore, these claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 35 noted above, these claims include additional patentable elements.

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§103(a) Rejections

The Office action rejected claims 7 and 34 as being unpatentable over Tietjen in view of Anand. Applicants respectfully disagree. Each of these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 4 and 29, respectively, and consequently include the recitations these claims. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claims 4 and 29. Neither Tietjen nor Anand, whether considered alone or in any permissible combination, disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 7 and 34 and therefore, claims 7 and 34 are also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claims noted above, each of these dependent claims includes additional patentable elements.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office Action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

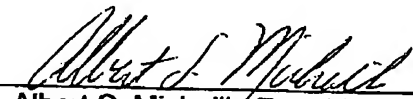
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-37 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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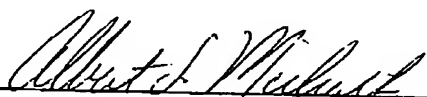
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